

LIST OF A FEW SPECIES OF BIRDS NEW TO THE FAUNA OF
GAUDELOUPE, WEST INDIES, WITH A DESCRIPTION OF A NEW
SPECIES OF CERYLE.

R.

By GEORGE N. LAWRENCE.

The birds now enumerated I received from Dr. St. F. Colardeau, who wrote concerning them, as follows:

"Five or six of these birds, I believe, have never been observed, or described as being visitors to the Lesser Antilles; they have been collected in our mountains by my son or myself; others were found by Mr. Fred. A. Ober, in the other islands, but not in Guadeloupe.

"I would be very thankful to receive the result of your examination and classification of these specimens."

Dr. Colardeau was correct in his supposition as regards the names of five of the species; the others he did not attempt to determine. As he has sent some interesting notes of the habits of several of the species, they are included and are designated by quotation marks.

Mr. Charles Colardeau, the doctor's son, wrote me:

"My father thinks, and I am of the same opinion, that there are still some birds in the mountains of our island which have not been killed there yet, such as the Siffleur Montagne, which Mr. Ober found in Dominica. There is but a short distance between the two islands, and they are so much alike in their volcanic structure that there seems to be no reason why this bird should not be found in one as well as the other."

+ 1. *Mniotilta varia* (Linn.). "Black and White Creeper."

"This bird is pretty common during the winter months, disappearing at the beginning of May until the end of October or beginning of November; habits same as those described by Wilson. Seen from October to May."

This species was not found by Mr. Ober in any of the islands of the Lesser Antilles.

+ 2. *Parula americana* (Linn.). "Blue Yellow-backed Warbler."

"Not plentiful—seen in pais-daux trees on the mountains from December to March. Very active amongst the upper branches and flying away with a sharp 'peep' when alarmed. No nest ever found and supposed not to reside all the year in Guadeloupe."

Not obtained by Mr. Ober in any of the islands of the Lesser Antilles.

+ 3. *Perissoglossa tigrina* (Gmel.). "Cape May Warbler."

"This bird was shot badly in the vent and the sex could not be made out. The specimen sent is supposed to be a female. Quite rare and seen only in the mountains, amongst the rows of pais-daux trees used to shelter the coffee bushes. From November to April."

Dr. Colardeau was correct in his supposition regarding the name of this species; but the specimen proved to be a male. He also sent the female, which he was not able to identify. He says of it:

"For want of a proper opportunity, nearly three weeks elapsed before this bird was secured after having been seen. During this time it was noticed daily, creeping through the branches of a single *pais-daux* tree growing in a yard of the town of Basse-Terre, Guadeloupe, picking little bugs and worms from the leaves, a few blossoms being then on the tree. It acted like warblers generally, but had motions something like the creepers, although it was never seen to alight on the sides of the branches. It appeared quite tame and was finally shot by my son on the 11th of February, 1882.

"After being secured, I was told that it was not uncommon in the neighborhood. This, however, I must doubt until further proof, as I cannot trust the sayings of anybody here about birds."

This is also new to the fauna of the Lesser Antilles.

4. *Dendroeca striata* (Forst.). "Warbler."

"These birds, never seen before, were shot at the botanic garden of Basse-Terre, Guadeloupe, on the 10th of October, 1882. They became very plentiful in the immediate neighborhood for eight or ten days, and then suddenly disappeared. On the return of the fall season of 1883, I looked forward for their appearance in the same place, of which I am the director, but none could be discovered. In 1882 a great number could have been secured in a single day."

This species has not been observed before in any of the Lesser Antilles.

5. *Dendroeca virens* (Gmel.). "Black-throated Green Warbler."

"Rather common from November to March. Frequents the upper branches of middle-sized trees, *pais-daux* principally, among the coffee plantations. Sometimes catches flies in the manner of *Dendroeca plumbea*, while the black-throated blue warbler (*Sylvia canadensis*) frequents the lower undergrowth and is not as common."

6. *Myiarchus oberi*, Lawr. "Ober's Flycatcher; Gros Siffleur."

"Not rare on some mountainous parts of the island. Frequents the top of dead and decaying timbers in the forest. Feeds also on small berries, principally those eaten by *Elainea martinica*."

7. *Blacicus brunneicapillus*, Lawr. "Le Gobe-mouche brun."

"Very little difference between the male and female, which is perhaps a little less bright than the male in coloring.

"This bird frequents the shady undergrowth and edges of forests. Although quite common, it is very little known. It is generally seen during the winter months and early spring in company with its mate. It utters two full notes or whistles while watching for flies and bugs around the large roots of the biggest trees. Is seen also sometimes

among the shady coffee plantations of the mountains. The nest is unknown here."

8. "*Chætura*."

No specimen sent.

9. *Tringoides macularius* (Linn.).

10. *Sterna hirundo*, Linn.

Ceryle stictipennis. Sp. nov.

Male.—The upper plumage is ashy-blue, with a broad pure white band across the hind neck, connecting with the white of the throat; lores black; a spot of white anterior to the eye, and another of the same color below it; the upper tail-coverts are colored like the back, and are barred on both webs with white; the two middle tail feathers are also colored like the back; the shafts are black, bordered narrowly on each side with deep black; they are conspicuously marked with triangular-shaped white spots on the middle of each web, these are nine in number on each side; the other tail feathers are black, with their outer edges colored like the back, and having pure white spots rounded in form on each web, those on the inner webs are much the largest; all the tail feathers are tipped with white; the quills are black, largely white on their inner webs and marked on the primaries with quadrate white spots on the outer ones, rather far apart; the secondaries have also small white spots on their outer webs, and on the inner webs large round spots, the outer webs are margined with ashy-blue; the tertiaries are largely ash-blue on their outer webs, spotted and barred with white, the inner webs are brownish-black and marked with large spots of white; the wing-coverts are like the back in color, the larger ones are sparsely marked with small white spots; the scapulars are narrowly barred with white; the under wing-coverts are white, largely intermixed with cinnamon color; the throat is white; the lower part of the neck, the breast, and the abdomen are of a very dark cinnamon color; the lower part of the abdomen, the flanks, crissum and under tail-coverts are white, closely spotted and barred with rather dull ashy-blue; the tarsi and toes are dark brown; the bill is black, with the basal half of the under mandible yellow.

Length, fresh, 17 inches; wing, $7\frac{3}{4}$; tail, $5\frac{1}{2}$; bill, 3.

Habitat.—Guadeloupe, West Indies.

Type in my collection.

Female.—The color above is similar to that of the male, but it has the entire back and wings marked sparsely with small white spots; in the markings on the head, wings, and tail they are much alike; it has the white throat and band on the hind neck as in the male; across the lower part of the throat and upper part of the breast there is a broad band of ashy-blue, minutely freckled with white; this band is bordered narrowly below with white; the entire under plumage besides, and the under wing-coverts are deep cinnamon.

Length skin, $17\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing, 8; tail, $5\frac{3}{4}$; bill, 3.

The type of the female is in the National Museum, Washington, to which it was sent from Guadeloupe by Mr. L. Guesde.

Remarks.—I have for comparison two males and four females of *C. torquata*. The male of the new species differs from the same sex of *torquata* in the upper plumage being rather duller in color, and strikingly so in having the feathers of the back and wings barred with white seen on the back by raising them, whereas in *C. torquata* these feathers are immaculate; the quills are of a deeper black and have their outer webs conspicuously spotted with white, whereas in *torquata* they are unspotted; the cinnamon color below is rather darker than in the other species, and the lower part of the abdomen and under tail-coverts are closely spotted and barred with ash-blue; in one of the males of *torquata* there are a few spots on the lower abdomen and under tail-coverts; the other has these parts pure white; the new species has the under wing-coverts white, blotched with cinnamon, those of *torquata* being pure white; the wings are longer than in *torquata*.

The female differs from that sex of *C. torquata* in having the outer webs of the quill feathers spotted with white, and in the upper plumage and wings being conspicuously spotted with white, and in having the under plumage darker in color; in one specimen of *C. torquata* there are no spots; in the other three there are concealed spots of white on the back, and in one of them from Jalapa, Mexico, there are a few spots showing on the wings, and this specimen has white spots on the outer web of the first primary, the outer webs of the quill feathers in the other three are without spots; the bluish band across the breast is freckled with minute spots of white; this character is seen only in the Jalapa specimen, but in a much less degree; this specimen, however, has not the general spotted appearance of the new species; the white bands on the central tail feathers are more strongly marked than in *C. torquata*.

For a long time I have been very desirous to see the large kingfisher from Guadeloupe, which had been known there as "*Ceryle torquata*" from specimens in the museum at Pointe a Pitre. It was not obtained by Mr. Ober, and is given in his catalogue from these specimens. I thought from its isolated position (none being recorded from any other island of the West Indies or found nearer than Central or South America) that it might differ from *C. torquata*. Last summer I was gratified by receiving a specimen of the male from Dr. Colardeau. On a comparison with numerous specimens of *C. torquata*, I came to the conclusion that it was a distinct species. I requested Mr. Ridgway to lend me the specimens of *C. torquata* in the National Museum; he kindly sent three specimens so labeled, all females; fortunately one of them was from Guadeloupe, thus giving me the opportunity to examine both sexes.

Dr. Colardeau wrote me: "I have a fine skin of *Ceryle torquata* for you. It was shot by my son in a large mountain stream crossing the

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botanic garden, which is situated at about one mile from the sea, at Basse-Terre. Its mate was seen at the same time, but could not be obtained. There are now several specimens at the museum of Pointe a Pitre. Mr. Vetrac lately showed me two, which he assured me were young ones, taken from the nest in a cliffy bank, but in size and coloring they did not differ apparently from adults. However, I did not observe them very closely."

From Mr. Charles Colardeau I received the following account:

"The large Kingfishers, *C. torquata*, are very rare, and when seen are very hard to secure, as they are very wild. I only saw three in two years, although I hunted a great deal for them."

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REMARKS UPON THE PLUMAGE OF *REGULUS CALENDULA*.

R.

By CHARLES WICKLIFFE BECKHAM.

As the books appear to be considerably at sea as to the presence of the brightly colored crown-patch of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet in females and young autumnal birds, it may not be out of place to attempt the elucidation of the matter.

Wilson, Audubon, and Nuttall all say substantially the same thing in regard to the female—that it is similar to the male; and in Audubon's plate of the species the female, as well as the male, is figured with the brilliant scarlet-vermilion crown. As to the presence of this ornament in young birds in the fall they are all silent. In "Birds of North America," 1858, p. 227, it is stated that "the female differs very little in color. It is quite probable that the species does not attain the red patch in the crown until the second year, as the spring migrations of the species always embrace a considerable number with the head perfectly plain."

The "History of North American Birds," 1874, Vol. I, p. 75, gets nearer to the truth than any of the other authorities by saying, "Female and young without the red on the crown."

In the "American Naturalist" for 1870 (IV, p. 54), Mr. Allen, in a brief note, questions the possession of the crown-patch by the female, and calls for the "experience of others." Mr. Dall, in the same volume, p. 376, mentions that he "took ten or twelve specimens in May and June in Alaska, all of which had the red crown, and proved on examination to be males." He saw no females at all. Dr. Cones, in the same volume, p. 316, in the "Key," 1872, p. 78, and in "Birds of the Northwest," 1874, p. 16,* expresses the belief that the male and female are similarly

* "There has been some discussion respecting a supposed sexual difference in the scarlet crest of this species. But the fact is that both sexes possess this ornament,